



Re: NMED question on an Aquifer Exemption in El Paso - see details below 

Lisa Pham to: Ray Leissner

07/09/2012 01:04 PM

Cc: Michael Vaughan

From: Lisa Pham/R6/USEPA/US
To: Ray Leissner/R6/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: Michael Vaughan/R6/USEPA/US@EPA

Thank you, Ray.

I will attend the conference call with TCEQ this Wednesday.

Ray Leissner

[Lisa, Mike, I have talked to John but just to say...](#)

07/09/2012 12:47:09 PM

From: Ray Leissner/R6/USEPA/US
To: Lisa Pham/R6/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: Michael Vaughan/R6/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 07/09/2012 12:47 PM
Subject: Re: NMED question on an Aquifer Exemption in El Paso - see details below

Lisa, Mike,

I have talked to John but just to say we are aware of their position. The only people who can express a position on NM's request for a monitor well is our front office and I don't think they are ready to do so. How NM's request will affect our decision is unknown so we can't speak to it.

FYI - We have a conference call scheduled with TCEQ on Wednesday between 2 - 3 pm to discuss why TCEQ thinks they need an exemption. Lisa put that on your calendar you need to be there (Gulf of Mexico).

Ray Leissner, Env. Eng.
Ground Water / UIC Section (6WQ-SG)
(214) 665 - 7183
USEPA, Region 6

The FIRST STEP in protecting your ground water is to have your well tested.

Lisa Pham

[Hi Mike, I was out of the office last week; howev...](#)

07/09/2012 09:26:43 AM

From: Lisa Pham/R6/USEPA/US
To: Michael Vaughan/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, Ray Leissner/R6/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 07/09/2012 09:26 AM
Subject: NMED question on an Aquifer Exemption in El Paso - see details below

Hi Mike,

I was out of the office last week; however, I did forward this question to Ray before leaving.

Hopefully, he's already responded to John Hall.

Lisa

----- Forwarded by Lisa Pham/R6/USEPA/US on 07/09/2012 09:25 AM -----

From: Michael Vaughan/R6/USEPA/US
To: Lisa Pham/R6/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 07/02/2012 09:46 AM
Subject: Fw: Hi - question on an Aquifer Exemption in El Paso - see details below

Hi Lisa - do we have any info. to give John Hall re: his below question? Just checking - Thanks!

Mike

----- Forwarded by Michael Vaughan/R6/USEPA/US on 07/02/2012 09:46 AM -----

From: "Hall, John, NMENV" <john.hall@state.nm.us>
To: Michael Vaughan/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, Brian Graves/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, Lisa Pham/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, Ray Leissner/R6/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: "Marshall, Clint, NMENV" <clint.marshall@state.nm.us>, "Schoeppner, Jerry, NMENV" <jerry.schoeppner@state.nm.us>, "Davis, Jim, NMENV" <Jim.Davis@state.nm.us>
Date: 06/26/2012 06:01 PM
Subject: RE: Hi - question on an Aquifer Exemption in El Paso - see details below

Mike, Lisa, Brian, and Ray:

I am not sure about your familiarity with the proposed aquifer exemption for the three injection wells associated with El Paso Water Utility's Kay Bailey Hutchison Desalination Plant. The three injection wells are located between approximately 0.5 and 3.0 miles from the New Mexico Border and inject into the Fusselman, Montoya, and El Paso Formations. The exemption is for an aquifer thickness of approximately 2,500 feet located between approximately 2,500 and 5,000 feet below ground surface. The confining zone is approximately 1,700 feet of low permeability shales and limestones.

My understanding, based on the most recent revisions of the exemption request, is that the injection volume of 3 million gallons per day (MGD) is proposed to be distributed at 1.35 MGD for the two farthest injection wells and 0.15 MGD for the injection well located closest to the New Mexico/Texas border. A remaining 0.15 MGD was included in the model for another well that has not been constructed. The resulting proposed exempt area is rectangular and appears to have the New Mexico/Texas border as its northern boundary.

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) would like confirmation that the proposed exempt area does not extend across the New Mexico/Texas border. NMED would also like to clarify that it does not oppose the proposed aquifer exemption so long as it does not extend into New Mexico and a means of monitoring, data collection, and analysis, adequate to verify/validate the model output, is provided. NMED requests that no further injection occur into JDF-1 (the active well closest to the border) and that it be used for monitoring purposes. If monitoring or other information indicates that the plume will move into New Mexico, NMED wants a provision in the exemption requiring El Paso Water Utility to apply for a New Mexico Underground Injection Control Aquifer Designation (Section 20.6.2.5103 NMAC). These provisions are based on NMED's need to be consistent in approach among other aquifer designation requests in the state and our state UIC regulations which require aquifer designations for wells injecting into aquifers between 5,000 and 10,000 mg/l total dissolved solids (TDS). Aquifer designations would not be granted for aquifers with TDS concentrations below 5,000 mg/l.

Please let us know EPA's position on NMED's requests and any question you have. Thanks you for your consideration of this matter.

John Hall
Underground Injection Control Coordinator
New Mexico Environment Dept--Ground Water Quality Bureau
(505) 827-1049

From: Michael Vaughan [mailto:Vaughan.Michael@epamail.epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, June 26, 2012 7:01 AM
To: Hall, John, NMENV
Cc: Brian Graves; Lisa Pham
Subject: Re: Hi - question on an Aquifer Exemption in El Paso - see details below

Hi John - please see the below e-mail from Lisa Pham; when you get a chance, please e-mail us your exact question re: the Aquifer Exemption - Thanks.

Mike

From: Lisa Pham/R6/USEPA/US
To: Michael Vaughan/R6/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: Brian Graves/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, "Hall, John, NMENV" <john.hall@state.nm.us>
Date: 06/26/2012 07:59 AM
Subject: Re: Hi - question on an Aquifer Exemption in El Paso - see details below

Hi Mike,

Please ask John to send us his question(s). I might be able to help him out.

Thank you.

Lisa Pham
Environmental Engineer
U.S. EPA Region 6
Ground Water/UIC Section (6WQ-SG)
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75202
214-665-8326 (office)

-----Michael Vaughan/R6/USEPA/US wrote: -----

To: Brian Graves/R6/USEPA/US@EPA
From: Michael Vaughan/R6/USEPA/US

Date: 06/26/2012 07:31AM

Cc: Lisa Pham/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, "Hall, John, NMENV" <john.hall@state.nm.us>

Subject: Hi - question on an Aquifer Exemption in El Paso - see details below

Hi Brian - I hope you're doing well.

I recently received a voice-message from Mr. John Hall, at the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED). Mr. Hall had a question for Ray Leissner regarding an Aquifer Exemption in El Paso, and was wondering if Ray had any info. on this.

Since Ray is out until 7/02, is there anyone else here at EPA Region 6 that Mr. Hall can talk to regarding this? Please let us know. Thanks very much,

Mike Vaughan
SRF and Projects Section
X-7313 or (214) 665-7313